

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR SHEILA KUEHL

February 2, 2016

The coastline and beaches spanning Los Angeles County's western and southern boundaries are icons of our region. Running from Malibu in the north all the way down to Long Beach to the south, LA's coastline helps define who we are. Preserving it for Los Angeles County's residents is of paramount importance.

The California Coastal Commission is charged with protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for current and future generations. The Coastal Commission was established in 1972 via voter initiative, and was later codified by the Legislature in the California Coastal Act of 1976. Often the last hope for ensuring beach access for the public and preventing inappropriate construction near the coastline, the Coastal Commission is a key protector of one of our State's most important resources.

The Coastal Commission is governed by a Commission of twelve voting members and three non-voting members. All twelve voting members are appointed by either the Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, or the Senate Rules Committee. The Commission manages Coastal Commission staff, including its executive director. The Coastal Commission's current Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester, is widely considered to be a strong environmental steward and succeeded Peter Douglas, who

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

SOLIS _____

served as Executive Director of the Coastal Commission for more than twenty years and was a key champion of the 1976 California Coastal Act.

The Coastal Commission recently announced that it has moved to fire Dr. Lester, and a public hearing on the matter is set for February 10th in Morro Bay, California. This move is widely seen by those concerned with protecting California's coastline as part of a larger attempt on the part of some of the members of the Commission to weaken enforcement of the Coastal Act. Over the past few years, as a result of decisions made by appointees to the Commission, the Commission has drifted from what has historically been a commitment to uphold the Coastal Act. Instead, the Commission has increasingly allowed development to proceed that is not in conformance with the Commission's mandate. Examples include the recent move by the Commission to seriously limit public access at Broad Beach in Malibu, as well as approval of the inappropriate Edge Project in Malibu.

Dr. Lester has provided the Commission with the environmental leadership that the Commission needs, and removing him would undermine the stability of the Commission, while simultaneously further compromising its ability to effectively carry out its mission.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the CEO to send a five-signature letter to Governor Brown, Speaker Toni Atkins, Speaker-Elect Anthony Rendon, Senate President pro tempore Kevin de Leon, and each Coastal Commissioner asking them to retain Dr. Lester as Executive Director and to recommit themselves to protecting California's coastline and beaches for the public, consistent with the mandate set forth in the California Coastal Act.